

10-10-12

Thank you for taking my call today, especially before the election. Virginia Governor McDonnell is behind a campaign to lift the 30 year old moratorium on uranium mining in Virginia. The site to be mined is about 20 minutes North of Danville on the Bannister River, which flows into the Kerr Lake Reservoir where 7 North Carolina counties draw their drinking water from. The 4 site- specific studies done to date have advised that mining in a hurricane zone prone to periods of high rainfall in short periods of time, combined with a proximity to an earthquake fault line and located next to high density populations who rely on the water including all of NE North Carolina and the Hampton Roads communities surrounding and including Virginia Beach and our military installations, would not be advisable due to the probability of radioactive contamination entering the waterway, making the Roanoke river unfit for consumption or recreation for generations.

Timeline: The governor is going to bring a recommendation to lift the ban in Virginia when the General assembly convenes in January. He is pursuing an option to lift the ban in Pittsylvania county if the county supervisors vote to allow it, in order to draw republican votes into the majority. Many oppose lifting the ban, don't want it happening in their "backyard"

North Carolina has been officially silent on the matter, probably because of the election, however all the cities and county governments have passed resolutions against lifting the ban in Virginia and have communicated this to VA Governor McDonnell. Bev Perdue is absent "without leave" on the entire subject despite being urged by Representative Edith Warren and others in her party.

I have formed a coalition of the County government associations, the Roanoke river mayors association, the Roanoke valley chamber of commerce and the lake Gaston Chamber of commerce and the lake Gaston association and the Kerr lake association as well as property owners here at the lake to oppose this threat and bring north Catalina's voice to the debate in VA. Our entire economy is based on our water up here, our health is at stake and our property values and tax values are all at risk. Uranium mining is a dirty business, and there are no mines anywhere in the world located in a hurricane zone that can cause a breach of the containment cells holding the radioactive material causing contamination locally and downstream. Radioactive dust will travel as far as Rockingham county in NC and possibly to Greensboro.

I would like to sit with you and show you the data, and discuss a strategy, even if it is after the election, to educate our state officials on this threat and get a statement of opposition from NC formally to the Virginia Governor before the General Assembly reconvenes in January.

I will travel to wherever you are if time permits in the next two weeks, A policy against Uranium mining in this region is not a threat to the Republicans goal of energy independence, and I will show you why.

My contact information is below, and thank you again, so much, for your consideration..

Regards,

Mike Pucci
Chairman, NC Coalition Against Uranium mining.

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